

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
JAN 31 2005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARKS OFFICE

In re. Application of: CSONKA et al
Serial No.: 09/739,252
Filed: December 19, 2000
Title: "Trace-Pad Interface for Improved Signal Quality"
Examiner: Jeremy C. Norris
Art Unit: 2841
Confirmation Number: 3742
Atty's Docket No.: 51636-223

To: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450,
U.S.A

Attention: Mail Stop Fee Amendments

Dear Sir:

AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action dated October 6, 2004, applicant elects to proceed on the Group I claims 12 through 22 and 25 through 34 with traverse.

The applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's restriction requirement on the basis that the claims currently on file provide only two independent claims, namely claim 12 and claim 25. The Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 23 and 24, 35 and 36, are distinct from the independent claims that they depend from, as being related as a combination and sub-combination.

In support of the restriction requirement, the Examiner has stated that the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the sub-combination as claimed because the combination does not require the input receiver to be mounted on the circuit substrate as required by the sub-combination. However, applicant respectfully submits that the dependent claims include all of the limitations of the claims from which they

40215348.1

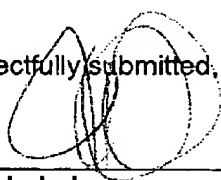
- 2 -

depend. Therefore, claims 23 and 24, which depend from independent claim 12 and claims 35 and 36, which depend from independent claim 25 include all of the limitations of the base claims 12 and 25 from which they depend. While a dependent claim may add additional features to the independent claim they can, by definition, not be used in other combinations as all of the elements of the parent combination are present and form part of the apparatus defined by the dependent claim.

Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement and request for election and examine the application on the merits in relation to all claims 12 through 36 of the instant application.

Favourable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Terry L. Lele
Reg. no. 41,554

TEL:cn
Encl.

Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP
World Exchange Plaza
20th floor
45 O'Connor Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1A4, Canada

Phone: (613)-788-2244
Fax: (613)-788-2247

Dated: January 31, 2005

40215348.1